



Blake Trask, Chair
Craig Benjamin, Vice Chair
Max Hepp-Buchanan, Secretary
Ann Boyd
Evan Brown
Allegra Calder
Matthew Crane
Sean Cryan
Gabe Grijalva
Kelsey Jones-Casey
Neal Komedal
Jean White

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 5, 2010/6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Chair: Blake Trask
Recorder: Kelsey Jones-Casey
Location: Seattle City Hall, L204

Members Present:

Ann Boyd; Craig Benjamin (Vice Chair); Evan Brown; Allegra Calder; Matthew Crane; Gabe Grijalva; Max Hepp-Buchanan (Secretary); Kelsey Jones-Casey; Neal Komedal; Blake Trask (Chair); Jean White

Members Absent:

Sean Cryan

Guests:

Sally Bagshaw, City of Seattle Council; Serena Lehman, Cascade Bicycle Club; Brian Dougherty, SDOT; Connie Zimmerman, SDOT; Merlin Rainwater, Citizen; Vena Rainwater, Citizen; Dayna Loeffler, Citizen; Elizabeth Joy Smith, Citizen; Michael Snyder, Seattle Likes Bikes; Doug Beeman, Citizen; Josh Cohen, Publicola

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Blake Trask.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Members of the public:
 - Brought to attention pedestrian death by accident with bicycle on Cedar River Trail. Confusion over appropriate voice signals for bicyclists while passing pedestrians (e.g. “on your left” versus “passing” versus bell-ringing).
 - Expressed concern over lack of bicycle parking at street-level at Westlake Center. Recommended improved parking signage for garage parking.
 - Reported that there was a “bicycle blogger” meet-up in Seattle, and that there is a very active community writing about bicycling here for a city of its size.
 - Expressed safety concerns about East Marginal Way in construction zone and recommended improved signage and route detours for bicyclists.
 - Expressed concern over route from Beacon Hill to East Marginal Way. Reported that surface of route is crushed rock and difficult to ride on (especially on Spokane from Airport to East Marginal Way).
 - Described need for bike corridor from West Seattle to Magnolia with no competition from traffic.

The Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the city on matters related to bicycling, and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon bicycling; and shall have opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning processes insofar as they relate to bicycling.

-City Council
Resolution 25534

- Described need for bike routes in the Rainier Valley – particularly on Rainier Avenue and to-and-from Columbia City.
- Recommended increasing signage on good “hidden” thoroughfares.

PRESENTATIONS

Time: 6:10 p.m.

Topic: Seattle’s Bicycle Network and Parks

Presenter: Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Parks and Seattle Center Committee Chair

Purpose: Discuss Seattle’s bicycle network and connection to City parks

Findings/Critical Points:

- Reported that there are at least nine city council members who are supportive of bicycling in Seattle and whom are themselves cyclists.
- There is increasing interest on the part of Councilmembers to serve on the Council Bicycle Caucus.
- Reported that she is most interested in connections between parks, especially the “Lake to Bay Loop Trail” project. Part of this is a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian way from South Lake Union Park through Seattle Center west to Myrtle Edwards and the Sculpture Park. This is aligned with the Seattle Parks Foundation’s goal of forging connections between parks and Seattle Center Century 21 vision.
- Acknowledged that “sharrows aren’t good enough,” and expressed support for cycle tracks to make us as competitive as Portland and Minneapolis.
- Expressed interest in the Georgetown neighborhood, which has often been “forgotten.”
- Mentioned the Cascade Bicycle Club Bike Business Forum, which is made up of group of business leaders who see cycling as a smart business strategy and that works to support the business community in bike commuting (works on issues like shower facilities, bike lockers, etc.).

SBAB Comments and Action Items:

- The Board asked Councilmember Bagshaw how SBAB can serve as advisors to Seattle City Councilmembers.
- The Board discussed how they have assisted Councilmember Rasmussen in assessing issues of abandoned bicycles in the 3rd Street corridor. Mentioned poor connectivity between Seattle and southern first-ring suburbs like Renton, Tukwila, and SeaTac.
- Bagshaw noted that bicycle routes that are easy and accessible for families are great.
- Matthew Crane will organize a list of SBAB’s priorities for projects to give to the City Council. This will include geographically-balanced routes that are practical and safe.

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Bike Smart Update

Presenters: Brian Dougherty, SDOT; Serena Lehman, Cascade Bicycle Club

Purpose: Provide an update on the Bike Smart Program

Findings/Critical Points:

- Bike Smart Program addresses chapter five of the Bicycle Master Plan (which calls for increased education, encouragement and enforcement for bicycle programs).
- Current activities include: updating the bicycle map, online bike tools, bike kiosks, and encouraging kids to bike through Safe Routes to School Program.

- Their assessment found that perceptions of unsafe conditions and hills/terrain were seen as barriers to biking. However, people enjoy learning new routes and enjoy closed streets in the summer. There is little interest by women in women-only events.
- Did outreach through mailers and advertisements, and in 2009 with “bike ambassadors” that went door-to-door to answer questions and explain program.
- Hosted women’s only rides, family rides, and other open rides. Demonstrated how to navigate different neighborhoods (e.g. Seward Park to Columbia City).
- Results were (1) that attendees were mostly women, and most participants returned multiple times; (2) prepaid postage increased rates of survey completion; (3) women are interested in family rides; (4) women don’t want to attend women-only events; (5) family events are popular (e.g. “fix a flat” and “safety rodeos”); and (6) there is a misperception of both biking and driving rights.
- The last finding led to new “Eye-to-Eye” campaign to foster awareness of bikers’ and drivers’ rights and responsibilities. Campaign involves a pledge to sign.
- Safe Routes to School Program has a mini grant program to assist schools with bike-to-school campaigns. Concord Elementary School and John Muir Elementary School are the awardees in 2010.
- Program has seen a huge increase in demand for bike maps. Last month they distributed a record number of maps, and they now have to do a second printing at least two months early.
- Program launched a basic online mapping tool that can zoom in and out online without downloading the PDF. In late 2010 the program will launch a bike rack location finder and bike counts on the map. SDOT will likely never publish its own wayfinding tool, but promotes the use of Google Bike Routes and Ride the City.
- Considering working with Seattle Police Department to do targeted enforcement as a compliment to bike education program.
- Cascade Bicycle Club is working in Southeast Seattle to do targeted research on barriers to riding in that area. Posters for the program will be translated into different languages, and there will be classes in Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese.

Recommendations:

- Safe riding for children should consider curb ramps so that children aren’t riding in driveways.

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Topic: Linden Avenue North Complete Streets Project

Presenter: Connie Zimmerman, SDOT

Purpose: Discuss bicycle infrastructure improvements to Linden Avenue North

Findings/Critical Points:

- Project looks at improved connectivity in the corridor, especially with sidewalks and bike lanes, and as connector to Interurban Trail.
- Major constraints include back-in parking, rerouting of pedestrian routes (i.e. sidewalks), bus routes, multifamily housing parking lots, etc.
- Website link for project is on SDOT website: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/linden.htm>

SBAB Comments and Action Items:

- Ann Boyd will schedule a bikeability tour on Linden Avenue for SBAB members.

- SBAB members discussed the possibility of adding cycle tracks and other bicycle facilities along portions of Linden Ave N.
 - SBAB will schedule a work session with SDOT staff to review the 30% designs and to provide additional project recommendations.
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Time: 7:35 p.m.

Topic: SDOT's 2010 Update

Presenter: Doug Cox, SDOT

Purpose: Provide an update on recent issues related to bicycling in Seattle

Findings/Critical Points:

- Celebrate Seattle Summer Streets will close off traffic and celebrate taking over the streets in Ballard, Alki Beach, Greenwood, and Columbia City this summer.
 - Via Tribunali has a "5 at 5" campaign whereby bikers can receive a free pizza if they come to the restaurant by bicycle. It is a fundraiser.
 - SDOT is preparing to install more bike racks this month, including one in Ballard for the Summer Streets event.
 - Regarding abandoned bikes: Councilmember Rasmussen asked for input on this issue. According to a member of the public, the UW uses the Revised Code of Washington to determine which bikes are removed from the street. SDOT has many questions about this issue. For example, who is responsible for notifying bicycle owners? Removing bicycles? Storing bicycles?
 - On May 6 there will be a meeting with SDOT and the Beacon Hill Council. They will be discussing removing parking on 15th Ave S for a climbing lane between Lucile Street and Snoqualmie.
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Time: 7:55 p.m.

Topic: Committee and/or Board Member Updates

Presenters: SBAB Members

Purpose: Provide an update on Committee meetings attended by SBAB members

Findings/Critical Points:

- Allegra Calder reported from the Bridging the Gap (BTG) Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee is finalizing the methodology to review Neighborhood Street Fund (NSF) projects for this year's funding cycle. NSF projects are nominated by the 13 District Councils and typically address neighborhood connectivity and safety by adding sidewalks or pedestrian crossings. There are also some projects that address bicycle facilities.
- Jean White reported that the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC) Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Council are developing a regional bike route network. In 2005 study was conducted by Cascade Bicycle Club to identify key regional connectors and missing links (four-county area with 80 cities). There is also a new King County bicycle map published. PSRC is collecting data on non-motor facilities and are asking partners about what data already exists.
- Matthew Crane reported that the Freight Mobility Advisory Committee discussed the Airport Way repaving project (including paving and traffic control on Royal Brougham to Dearborn and to Spokane Street). The Bicycle Master Plan has not yet reviewed the SDOT studies conducted, so there is not much action. Also, the 1st Avenue ramp from West Seattle to South Seattle is closed for 17 months. All traffic will be redirected over the low bridge.

- Blake Trask reported on the South Viaduct Replacement Project. The major concern is the multiuse trail segment between Main and S Holgate that is slated to be built on the “Port side” of the project.
- Blake Trask reported that stakeholders met on Nickerson issue – freight, bikers, neighborhood organizations, pedestrians, Feet First, and Cascade Bicycle Club, among others. SDOT is considering a rechannelization along W Nickerson St.

SBAB Comments and Action Items:

- SBAB members are asked to email their priorities and interests to Blake Trask and Craig Benjamin by Monday.

ADJOURN

- Blake Trask adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

May 2010 Meeting Minutes Distribution List:

- Michael McGinn, Mayor, City of Seattle
- Rebecca Deehr, Strategic Advisor for Policy and Outreach, Office of the Mayor
- City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, Transportation Committee Chair
- Peter Hahn, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)
- Sam Woods, Manager, Bicycle, Pedestrian & Neighborhood Program & Project Development, SDOT
- Diane Sugimura, Director, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
- Stella Chao, Director, Department of Neighborhoods (DoN)
- Doug Cox, Assistant Transportation Planner, SDOT Liaison
- Eric Widstrand, Traffic Operations Manager, SDOT
- Meeting Presenters: Seattle City Councilmember Sally Bagshaw, Parks and Seattle Center Committee Chair; Serena Lehman, Cascade Bicycle Club; Connie Zimmerman, SDOT; Doug Cox, SDOT
- City of Seattle Council Transportation Committee members
- City of Seattle Neighborhood District Coordinators
- Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (SBAB) Members